

February 1, 2016

RE: Implementation of AB199 and Inclusion of WWII in the Philippines in the History-Social Sciences Curriculum Framework

Dear State Superintendent Tom Torlakson, Dr. Thomas Adams, Members of the Instructional Quality Commission and State Board of Education:

Our family endorses the Bataan Legacy Historical Society's efforts to implement AB199 and to include the role of the Filipinos during WWII in the Philippines in the history-social sciences curriculum framework for Grades 10 and 11.

Shortly before the onset of WWII, the U.S. army inducted the Filipino Armed Forces into the U.S. Military. They were an essential part of the war effort.

Over 70 years ago, my husband and his parents spent over 3 years in a civilian prisoner of war camp called Santo Tomas Prison Camp. They were U.S. citizens living and working in Manila, Philippines. While U.S. military wives and children were sent home prior to the war, civilians working in Manila were told there was no reason for concern. Hence, they were left to be imprisoned by the Japanese. Had it not been for the brave Filipino people who smuggled supplies and food to them, I have no doubt that they all would have died. My husband's father developed severe beri-beri and was close to death. As it was, they all lost an enormous amount of weight since they were living on a starvation diet.

It is amazing to think that the military situation in the Philippines prior to WWII was a cavalry. Yes, men riding around on horseback! The Far East was ill prepared for war, let alone a world war. With MacArthur's retreat to Australia, the Philippines was essentially abandoned. The focus was on the war in Europe and there was much preparation needed to prepare for war in the Far East. The long military standoff at Bataan and Corregidor prior to surrender was a critical piece in preventing Japan from advancing to Australia. Yet, we do not read this in the history books.

Toward the end of the war, there were the spectacular rescues of all the civilian camps by MacArthur's troops which included Americans and Filipinos. They saved the lives of the remaining prisoners who would have been dead within the month from starvation. The situation in military prison of war camps was even worse. None of these rescues would have been possible without the involvement of not only the American forces but also the Filipino scouts, guerillas and Filipino Army which was part of the U.S. Army. Only recently have I heard that the ratio of Filipino to US military in WWII was 12:1. Yes, for every one US military personnel, there were 12 Filipinos fighting in WWII. This includes those fighting at Bataan. Isn't that loyalty deserving of recognition in the history books? The sacrifices of Filipinos both

military and civilian along with Americans in the Philippines made for freedom we experience today.

When I met my husband in the early 1960's shortly after graduating from high school and heard his story, I was stunned and wondered why I had not heard about this in my high school history classes. Whenever anyone hears the story today, they say they had no idea. We are clearly short changing the people of the Philippines when we don't acknowledge their efforts in securing our freedom. MacArthur said, "I shall return." He did but he had the Filipino people to support his efforts.

Our family urges you and the State Board of Education to fully implement AB199 and ensure that the historical framework will accurately portray the sacrifices of the Filipino and American soldiers and civilians during WWII.

Also, we support the suggestions that have been requested by Bataan Legacy Historical Society on the Second Field Review Draft that was approved by the IQC on November 20, 2015 and urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Pamela and Roy Doolan and Family